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race, by A. Graham Bell. The greater part of the volume is devoted to the report of the eclipse expedition, the interest of which is enhanced by the photographs reproduced in its pages.

Caroline island is a genuine atoll, of the type described by Darwin and Dana; while the frontispiece gives a bird's-eye view of the low circular island, the four accompanying illustrations will convey an idea of the scenery of a Pacific atoll. The surface of the island is covered with palms and undergrowth, including a large number of young cocoa palms planted by the owners of the island, who keep a few people on the island to cultivate them. Beside the eclipse and other physical data, the botany of the island is described by Dr. W. S. Dixon, U.S.N., and Professor W. Trelease; Dr. Dixon also adds notes on the zoölogy of the island. The few butterflies have been named by Messrs. Arthur Butler and H. Stricker. The whole presents an interesting monograph of an atoll. Plates XXVIII-XXXI are from electrotypes of four of the views taken on the island.

DR. KRAUSS' SLAVIC CUSTOMS.—In his latest publication, the ethnologist Dr. Friedr. S. Krauss has taken up the subject of the tribal and family relations, of domestic life, courtship, marriage, married life, divorce, adoption, widowhood and hospitality among the Southern Slavs of the Balkan peninsula. From the title, "*Sitte und Gebrauch der Südslaven*" (Customs and uses among Southern Slavs)¹ we would certainly expect a full treatment of other subjects of popular life, also, as of legal customs, agriculture, pastoral pursuits, etc., included in the volume; but what is offered is so well marked with the stamp of learning and thoroughness that we do not grudge with the author for the rest, expecting to find it in subsequent volumes. The work was undertaken in 1883 under the auspices of the Vienna Anthropological Society, and carried out through the munificence of Baron Ferd. von Andrian-Werburg. A considerable literature already exists on the subject, as may be collected from the preface of another important work of Krauss (on the Folklore of Southern Slavs, a serial, of which two volumes have hitherto appeared), but the author is perfectly independent of his predecessors, has himself visited a large portion of the countries described, and speaks several of their dialects. The "Customs" are interspersed with many quotations from Slavic poets and from popular poems, of which the authors are unknown, sometimes also with quotations from the original languages. But he avoids on purpose ethnologic comparisons with facts taken from non-Slavic especially non-European institutions, as the conditions under which they originated may not always be the same as the ones observed at home. It is interesting to see how the tribe of the

¹ *Sitte und Brauch der Südslaven. Nach heimischen gedruckten und ungedruckten Quellen, von Dr. F. S. Krauss. Wien, 1885. A. Hölder, publisher. 8vo, xxvi and 681 pages.*

ancient period (zupa or pleme) has gradually changed into the modern tribe, bratstvo or *brotherhood*, and in which manner all the family relations have assumed another shape also. It is true that many of these Slavic practices and customs are barbaric or have originated in a barbaric age, that some of the superstitions are exceedingly repulsive, and that the position of woman is far from what it ought to be or even from what it is now among the nations of Western Europe. Nevertheless a certain spirit of poetry hovers over these populations, which are isolated from the rush of the world's commerce and have been so long subject to the iron rule of the Turk. Their love for music, poetry, dance, mimicry and fairy tales lets them forget many of their tribulations and miseries of everyday life, and here in Krauss' book are gathered the most naïve and surprising utterances of the popular spirit. The long and useful alphabetical index was made by a young lady of the village of Mikanovci, whose name is mentioned in the preface.—*Albert S. Gatschet.*

KINGSLEY'S MADAM HOW AND MADAM WHY.¹—Charles Kingsley was no ordinary man, and no ordinary writer, and the republication among the Globe Readings of his little work, *Madam How and Madam Why*, will doubtless be welcomed by many of the class of little ones for whom it was written. It is true that to an adult the impersonation of method and reason as "*Madam How*" and "*Madam Why*," and that of analysis and synthesis as giants seems too metaphorical and somewhat old-fashioned, yet the charm of the style cannot be denied. A deeper objection to the title is, that we do not know the "*how*" or "*why*" of anything—we name the forces which move nature's scenery, but we understand them not. No one knew this better than Charles Kingsley, as may be seen by what he has to say with regard to analysis and synthesis. As a book for American children the value of this treatise is impaired by the fact that all the allusions and illustrations are European, or rather British.

EYFERTH'S NATURGESCHICHTE DER MIKROSKOPISCHEN SUSSWASSER BEWOHNER.²—This is a handy book for the student of fresh-water microscopic life, animal and vegetable, and appears to be tolerably well brought up to date. The leading authorities are given, while short family descriptions, a key to the genera, and a brief characterization of the genera and of quite a large number of species give all that is necessary to enable the observer to place any particular form among its relatives. The work is well indexed, and illustrated by seven full-page plates.

¹ *Madam How and Madam Why, or First Lessons in Earth-lore for Children.* By CHARLES KINGSLEY. New York, Macmillan & Co., 1885.

² *Die Einfachsten Lebensformen des Thier- und Pflanzenreiches.* Naturgeschichte der Mikroskopischen Süßwasser bewohner. Bearbeitet von B. EYFERTH. Braunschweig, Von Goeritz und zu Putlitz, 1885.